

Listing of Claims:

1. – 3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) A bearing housing according to Claim 203, wherein the radius of the arc of the concave inner surface wall portion is greater than the radius R.

5. (currently amended) A bearing housing according to Claim 4, wherein the radius of the arc of the concave inner surface wall portion is at least double the radius R.

6. (currently amended) A bearing housing according to Claim 202, wherein the distance from the central axis to ~~the wall portion~~ at a free end of the upstanding wall portion is substantially equal to the radius R.

7. (currently amended) A ~~bearing comprising a~~ bearing housing according to any preceding claim, deformed around the a ball thereby to define a bearing having substantially the radius R.

8. – 10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 2240, wherein the radius of the arc of the concave inner surface wall portion is greater than the radius R.

12. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 11, wherein the radius of the arc of the concave inner surface wall portion is at least double the radius R.

13. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 229, wherein the step of providing a bearing housing comprises providing a bearing housing wherein the distance from the central axis to ~~the wall portion~~ at a free end point of the upstanding wall portion is substantially equal to the radius R.

14. – 19 (canceled)

20. (new) A bearing housing to receive and be deformed around, in use, a ball having a predetermined radius R to form a bearing, the bearing housing having approximately circular symmetry around a central axis, and comprising:

a cup portion having a centre of curvature of approximately the radius R and thereby shaped to seat closely, in use, a first portion of the ball placed in the bearing housing;

an upstanding wall portion having a concave inner surface and extending from the cup portion, the inner surface including a conforming portion lying about a plane that is perpendicular to the central axis and that contains the centre of curvature of the cup portion, there being a first clearance between the conforming portion and the equator region of the ball, the first clearance being greater than a second clearance between the cup portion and the first portion of the ball,

the bearing housing being shaped such that, when the bearing housing is deformed around the ball to form a bearing, in use, the bearing housing is deformed so that the inner surface matches closely the shape of the ball.

21. (new) A bearing housing according to claim 20, wherein the inner surface of the upstanding wall portion is provided with a series of arcs which each define a respective concave part of the inner surface.

22. (new) A method of manufacturing a bearing, comprising the steps of:
providing a bearing housing having approximately circular symmetry around a central axis, and comprising:

a cup portion having a centre of curvature of approximately the radius R , thereby shaped to seat closely a first portion of a ball of radius R placed in the bearing housing;

an upstanding wall portion having a concave inner surface and extending from the cup portion, the inner surface including a conforming portion lying about a plane that is perpendicular to the central axis and that contains the centre of curvature of the cup portion, there being a first clearance between the conforming portion and the equator region of the ball, the first clearance being greater than a second clearance between the cup portion and the first portion of the ball;

placing a ball having substantially the radius R in the bearing housing; and

deforming the bearing housing around the ball in such a way that the inner surface matches closely the shape of the ball.

23. (new) A method according to claim 22, wherein the concave inner surface is provided with a series of arcs which each defines a respective concave part of the inner surface.